2: Caroe S-4 (no date) 1953 RL1 Soviet Central Asia RL1

As might be expected, cotton and silk production is the peculiar pride of Turkistan. The Farghana Valley, we know, has the ideal climate and the water both for cotton cultivation, and for the growth of mulberry-trees[1] for the silk-worm. The same is true of the other southern oases, watered by the Chirchik (Tashkent), Zarafshan and Kashka Darya, and also of the Vakhsh river irrigation in Tajikistan. In the early years cotton cultivation was in danger of becoming a monoculture, and more than once brought the country into terrible famine conditions. The figures of the fourth Five-Year Plan, if reliable, suggest that, even in Uzbekistan, there has now been a considerable reversion from commercial cropping to grain, and, if so, the rural economy is not so brittle as many have supposed. The great Soviet achievement has been to bring the mills into Turkistan and process the crops locally. The largest cotton-processing establishment is the Stalin Textile Combine and Institute at Tashkent, while for silk there is a combine at Margilan, said to be the largest in the world, and integrating all processes from the unwinding of the cocoon to the weaving of the final material. Woven silk is in great demand for parachutes.

IRRIGATION

The aim to free Russia from all dependence on foreign cotton and then to build heavy stock-piles is bound up with the Soviet policy of irrigation. Irrigation in its turn is linked both with waterways and (more important) with the production of hydro-electric power. In some respects, on the face of them, the Soviet plans for development under these heads are more imaginative even than the metallurgical projects realized in the Urals before the War. For the claim is that they will turn a great desert into a smiling countryside, and even divert waters destined by nature for the Arctic into the Turanian basin. But the science of the irrigation engineer

[1] *Morus alba*, known locally by the Persian word *tut*.

291 of the chalats. By way of headgear the women frequently wear a round flat cap. Very young girls usually go unveiled; they wear a tibeteika [302] very much like that of the man. The manner of dressing their hair is very attractive. It is worn in innumerable plaits into which black ribbons are worked, from the ends of which small silver bells are suspended.

As in all other Islamic countries only the women of the towns strictly observe the custom of veiling. When working in the fields the peasant-woman wears neither long cloak nor veil. When she goes to town, however, to sell her cotton at the market, she dons cloak and veil.

286 Throughout the centuries of Turkestan's history the textile crafts have maintained a considerable standard. That is natural enough as the country produces all the more important [234] textile fibres itself. Wool was indeed used but little in the manufacture of clothing, sheep being mainly bred for slaughter, as well as for the sake of their skin, which is known as "karakul". The best kind, the skin of unborn lambs, fetches a very high price, particularly in 248 certain colours. Silk and cotton growing have always been of great importance in Turkestan, and flourish to this day (see ill. page 1443). 1/1 The two principal kinds of cotton grown are Gossypium herbaceum and Gossypium hirsutum. In 1910 over 410,000 tons of cotton were grown on an area of about 940,000 acres. Silk growing was entirely in the hands of women. Its yields were always considerable, though no statistics are available.

1/1 [See cat 116, p 36 -- Analyst]

3:Czaplicka E-4 (no date) 1918 RL4 Turkic Peoples
Turkestan RL1

aksakala is elected, looking after the whole system of the chief canal. The lands irrigated by the natives in Turkestan (including Transcaspia), Bokhara, and Khiva equal 4,758,000 dess., or 2·6 per cent. of all the area. Since the Russian occupation, many attempts were made at reconstructing some of the ancient canals on modern lines. As the result of this, in the last few years before the war the Murgab canals were accomplished, irrigating some 25,000 dess., and the Romanoff canal, irrigating some 65,000 dess., in the north-eastern part of the Golodnaya ('Hunger') Steppe. A plan for irrigating a further four million dess. has been drafted.

No doubt this energy of the Russian administration was guided by appreciation of the immense value of the cotton industry. In 1913 some 550,000 dess., including the vassal Khanates, was under cotton plantations, realizing about 13½ million puds of cotton fibre (in 1914 some 675,000 dess., realizing some 13·9 million puds). Ferghana, which, it must be remembered, is the best-irrigated province, produced 75 per cent. of all cotton. Next comes the Tashkent district of Syr-Daria territory; the Katta-Kurgan, Khojent, and Samarkand districts of Samarkand territory; and the Merv and Tejent districts of the Transcaspian territory. It is owing to Russian influence that the old Central Asian specie of cotton (*Gossypium herbaceum*, L.) was almost entirely replaced by the American specie (*Gossypium hirsutum*, L.). The cotton plantations form a chief revenue of the Central Asiatic people, and were designated almost entirely for export. At the outbreak of war Russia occupied fifth place in cotton production (after U.S.A., Great Britain, Egypt, and China), and fourth place in cotton manufacture (after Great Britain, U.S.A., and Germany), and only one-fifth of her cotton was grown outside Central Asia (in Transcaucasia).

Other industries which might have a prosperous future are the rice and tobacco plantations and the rearing of silk-worms (at present Turkestan produces about 100,000 puds of dry cocoons per annum).

It has been said that this rich area has no communication

rigated farming, with intensive crops adapted to land irrigation (mainly cotton); (2) dry farming, including chiefly grain crops on mountain slopes having sufficient rainfall; (3) lowland livestock raising, including sheep and camels, adapted to the dry steppe and the desert; (4) highland livestock raising of cattle, goats, and sheep, adapted to valley pastures. Of all these activities, irrigated farming is by far the most important; it employs the greater portion of the population and covers more than two thirds of the sown area. The main crop in the irrigated area is cotton, remarkably well suited to the fertile loess soil of the lower valleys and the warm, sunny climate of Central Asia. The chief cotton areas are the Fergana Valley, the oases of Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara, and the Vakhsh valley. The cotton is processed in local ginning plants, the seeds are sent to oil-extracting presses, and the husks are used for fodder. Other irrigated crops are rice, alfalfa, wheat, corn, sesame, and melons. The irrigated fields are generally bordered by mulberry trees, on which the silkworm is cultivated. One of the most common fruit-trees is the apricot; widespread orchards also produce peaches, apples, pears, pomegranates, grapes. Dried fruits (apricots, peaches, and raisins) form important articles of export. Grain crops occupy a very small portion of the irrigated area and are grown mainly on the non-irrigated mountain slopes.

Livestock is raised all year round, generally in the high mountain valleys in the summer and the lowland steppe and desert in the winter. The most important herds are sheep (including the karakul sheep), camels, cattle, horses, and mountain goats and yak.

Beside the mining industry developed at the deposits of petroleum, coal, salt, sulphur, and nonferrous metals, the industry is concentrated in the region of Tashkent, where it is supplied with power by the two large hydroelectric installations, the Chirchik and the Farkhad power plants. Tashkent is the center of the heavy metallurgy, textile, machine-construction, and food industries. Plants which process agricultural products are located in many other parts of Central Asia; they include ginning plants, oil presses, tanneries, fruit canneries, sugar refineries, and cotton and silk mills.

The basic transportation route is the Trans-Caspian Railroad, which sends many branches into the chief economic regions of Central Asia: the spur from Mary to Kushka, on the Afghan border, and the branches from Chardzhou to Kungrad (now under construction), from Kagan to Termez and Stalinabad, and from Ursat'yevskaya to Andizhan–Kokand–Namangan.